

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An earphone apparatus for an audio device and a portable communication terminal device, comprising:

5 a first plug for disconnectable connection with the audio device;

a second plug for disconnectable connection with the portable communication terminal device;

10 an electroacoustical transducer connected to the first plug and the second plug for converting a first electric signal transmitted via the first plug into corresponding sound, and for converting a second electric signal transmitted via the second plug into corresponding sound; and

15 means provided between the first plug and the electroacoustical transducer for controlling a level of the first electric signal transmitted to the electroacoustical transducer.

2. An earphone apparatus for an audio device and a portable communication terminal device, comprising:

20 a first plug for disconnectable connection with the audio device;

a second plug for disconnectable connection with the portable communication terminal device;

an electroacoustical transducer;

25 first means connected to the second plug for detecting whether or not a call-related electric signal is outputted from the

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portable communication terminal device; and

second means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the first means for disconnecting the first plug from the electroacoustical transducer and connecting the second plug to the electroacoustical transducer when the first means detects that a call-related electric signal is outputted from the portable communication terminal device.

3. An earphone apparatus as recited in claim 2, further comprising:

third means connected to the second plug for detecting a level of an electric speech signal outputted from the portable communication terminal device;

fourth means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the third means for disconnecting the first plug from the electroacoustical transducer and connecting the second plug to the electroacoustical transducer when the level detected by the third means is equal to or higher than a predetermined reference level;

fifth means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the third means for disconnecting the second plug from the electroacoustical transducer and connecting the first plug to the electroacoustical transducer in cases where the level detected by the third means drops below the predetermined reference level and then remains lower than the predetermined reference level during longer than a predetermined

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sixth means connected to the first plug, the second plug, the electroacoustical transducer, and the third means for holding the first plug disconnected from the electroacoustical transducer and holding the second plug connected to the electroacoustical transducer in cases where the level detected by the third means drops below the predetermined reference level and then remains lower than the predetermined reference level during the predetermined time length or shorter.

5. An earphone apparatus as recited in claim 2, further comprising a microphone element connected to the second plug, and a switch connected to the second plug for generating a control signal transmitted to the portable communication terminal device.

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    a first plug for disconnectable connection with the audio
device;

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a second plug for disconnectable connection with the portable communication terminal device;

5 corresponding sound; and

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D2